

REMARKS

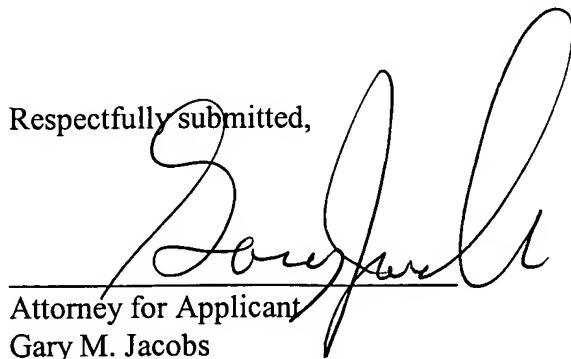
The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Election of Species Requirement for the following reasons.

First, Applicant submits that Figures 1 and 3 relate to the same species because Figure 3 is merely a flow chart describing the operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, as discussed in paragraph [0035]. This paragraph states that Figure 3 is a flowchart of the first embodiment, and paragraph [0023] states that Figure 1 is a block diagram of the apparatus of the first embodiment. In addition, Figures 6 and 7 relate to the same species because Figure 7 is merely a flow chart describing the operation of the apparatus of Figure 6, as discussed in paragraph [0063]. This paragraph states that Figure 7 is a flow chart of the third embodiment, and paragraph [0059] states that Figure 6 is a block diagram of the apparatus of the third embodiment. Thus, if the restriction requirement is maintained, Applicant requests that Figures 1 and 3 be considered to relate to the same species and that Figures 6 and 7 be considered to be part of the same species.

However, Applicant also requests that the entire Election of Species requirement be withdrawn because a careful review of the specification reveals that the various species are closely related. As a result, all of the claims could be searched by one examiner without undue effort and a duplicative search by two examiners may possibly produce inconsistent results. In addition, it is believed that if one examiner acts on all the claims of the present application, overall examining time will be less than if two examiners are involved. Therefore, in the interest of prosecution quality and economy for both the Office and Applicant, withdrawal of the election of species requirement in this application is appropriate and is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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